

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (currently amended) A disposable wearing article comprising an absorbent body having opposite front and rear ends and opposite first and second sides extending between the ends, and a pair of right and left primary elastic members bonded in their stretched state to at least one cover sheet that is attached to a back portion of said absorbent body, wherein each of said primary elastic members has an approximately linear portion in an approximately laterally central zone of said back portion inwardly of the opposite first and second sides keeping such a constant distance from the other primary elastic member as to allow a central zone of a skin-side surface of said absorbent body between said right and left primary elastic members to be formed as a linear raised portion by an action of a contractile force in said approximately linear portion and independent of any forces exerted by a wearer, and each of said primary elastic members further has at least one divergent portion extending from the approximately linear portion towards at least one of the front and rear ends of the absorbent body and outwardly to define at least one divergent pattern and to allow a divergent zone of said skin-side surface of said absorbent body in said divergent pattern to be formed as a divergent raised portion by an action of a contractile force in said divergent portion, said divergent raised portion being contiguous to said linear raised portion.

Claims 2-7 (canceled).

8. (currently amended) A disposable wearing article comprising a cover sheet having opposite front and rear ends and opposite first and second sides extending between the ends, an absorbent body attached on a skin-side surface of said cover sheet, and a pair of right and left primary elastic members bonded in their stretched state to said

cover sheet, wherein each of said primary elastic members has an approximately linear portion in an approximately laterally central zone of said cover sheet inwardly of the opposite first and second sides keeping such a constant distance from the other primary elastic member as to allow a central zone of a skin-side surface of said cover sheet between said right and left primary elastic members to be formed as a linear raised portion by an action of a contractile force in said approximately linear portion and independent of any forces exerted by a wearer, and further has at least one divergent portion extending from the approximately linear portion towards at least one of the front and rear ends of the cover sheet and outwardly to define at least one divergent pattern and to allow a divergent zone of said skin-side surface of said cover sheet in said divergent pattern to be formed as a divergent raised portion by an action of a contractile force in said divergent portion, said divergent raised portion being contiguous to said linear raised portion.

Claims 9-11 (canceled).

12. (previously presented) The disposable wearing article of claim 1, wherein the at least one divergent portion comprises a front divergent portion extending from a front end of the linear portion substantially to the front end of the absorbent body.

13. (previously presented) The disposable wearing article of claim 1, wherein the at least one divergent portion comprises a rear divergent portion extending from a rear end of the linear portion substantially to the rear end of the absorbent body.

14. (previously presented) The disposable wearing article of claim 1, wherein the at least one divergent portion comprises front and rear divergent portions extending from opposite front and rear ends of the linear portion towards the respective front and rear ends of the absorbent body.

15. (previously presented) The disposable wearing article of claim 8, wherein the at least one divergent portion comprises a front divergent portion extending from a front end of the linear portion substantially to the front end of the cover sheet.

16. (previously presented) The disposable wearing article of claim 8, wherein the at least one divergent portion comprises a rear divergent portion extending from a rear end of the linear portion substantially to the rear end of the cover sheet.

17. (previously presented) The disposable wearing article of claim 8, wherein the at least one divergent portion comprises front and rear divergent portions extending from opposite front and rear ends of the linear portion towards the respective front and rear ends of the cover sheet.

18. (previously presented) The disposable wearing article of claim 1, wherein the at least one cover sheet comprises an outer cover sheet and a skin-side cover sheet, the right and left primary elastic members being attached in the stretched state between the outer cover sheet and the skin-side cover sheet with the outer cover sheet and the skin-side cover sheet being bonded to one another in a superimposed manner.

19. (previously presented) The disposable wearing article of claim 18, wherein all of the right and left primary elastic members are between the outer cover sheet and the skin-side cover sheet.

20. (previously presented) The disposable wearing article of claim 8, wherein the cover sheet has an outer surface opposite the skin-side surface, the right and left primary elastic members being bonded in their stretched state to the outer surface of said cover sheet so that substantially all of each of the right and left primary elastic members is attached to the outer surface of said cover sheet.

21. (previously presented) The disposable wearing article of claim 20, wherein the cover sheet is a skin-side cover sheet, and wherein the disposable wearing article further comprises an outer cover sheet superimposed on the outer surface of the skin-side cover sheet and bonded to the skin-side cover sheet so that essentially all of the right and left primary elastic members are between the skin-side cover sheet and the outer cover sheet.

22. (currently amended) The disposable wearing article of claim 8, wherein ~~a central zone of a skin-side surface of said cover sheet between said right and left primary elastic members is formed as a~~ the divergent raised portion is formed by ~~an~~ the action of the contractile force of the primary elastic members in said divergent portion independent of forces exerted by the wearer.

23. (currently amended) The disposable wearing article of claim 1, wherein ~~a central zone of a skin-side surface of said cover sheet between said right and left primary elastic members is formed as a~~ the divergent raised portion is formed by ~~an~~ the action of the contractile force of the primary elastic members in said divergent portion independent of forces exerted by the wearer.

24. (new) The disposable wearing article of claim 1, wherein there are no elastic members bonded in a stretched state to the cover sheet at locations between the right and left primary elastic members.

25. (new) The disposable wearing article of claim 8, wherein there are no elastic members bonded in a stretched state to the cover sheet at locations between the right and left primary elastic members.